THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

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- SWAIL HOUSE, EPSOM
- HOUSE AT NEW ELTHAM

MAY 29, 1952 · VOL. 201 · NO. 4354

ONE SHILLING WEEKLY



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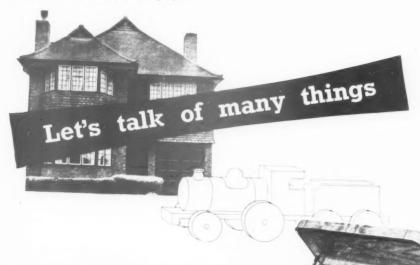
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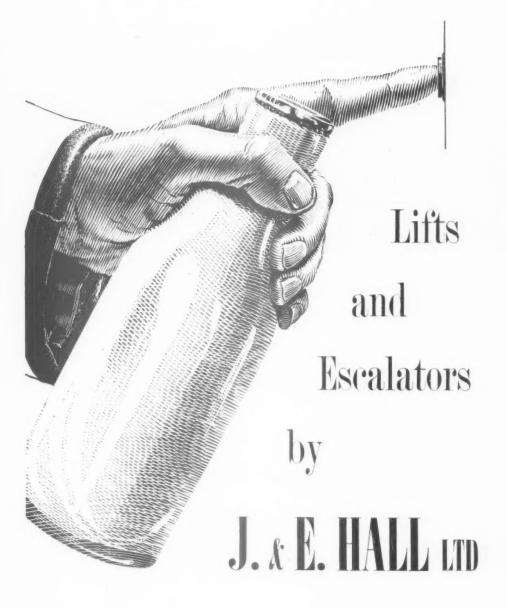
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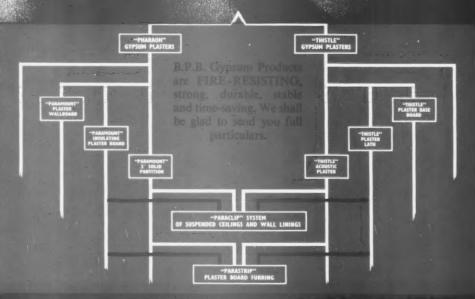
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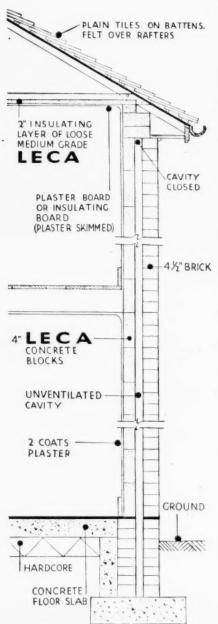


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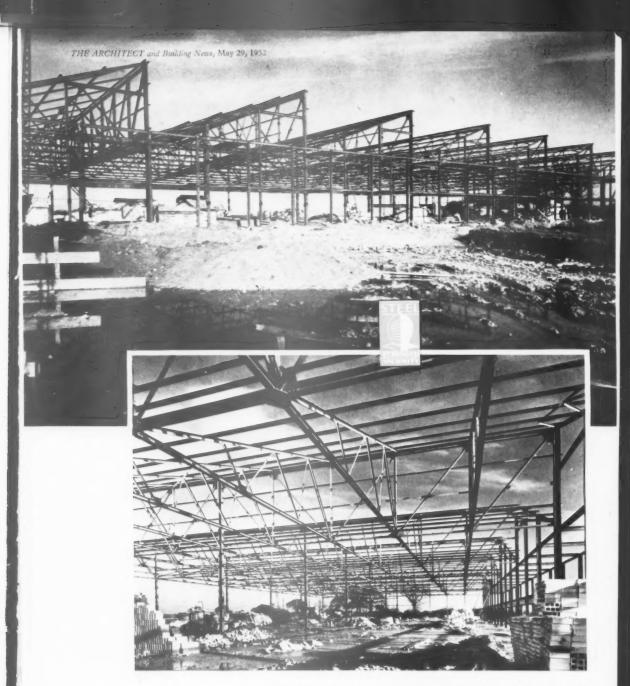
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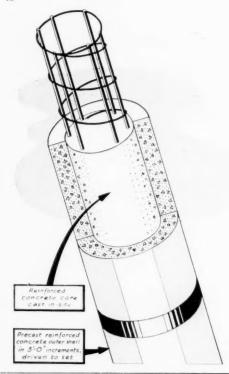
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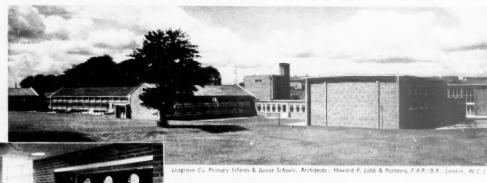
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THE BAILEY COMMITTEE

THE present Government seems determined to do everything possible to see that its election promise of more-houses-than-ever-before is implemented. It is proceeding by ignoring much that has gone before and attempting to place the onus of production over wider fields which often, on their own showing, cannot expand without violent effects on other production fields.

One of the first moves was to increase permissions for the erection of houses under licence from the previous quota of one to five up to fifty per cent. The results have not been staggering. Builders, who under pre-war conditions were willing to invest their capital in development for sale, are now tending to hang back with post-war building of a speculative nature. The controls over rents and sale prices are factors sufficient to explain their reticence, even if the high prices of short-supply materials and the unevenness of distribution over the country are also considered as deterrent influences. Many mediumsized and smaller firms, knowledgeable and well established in their business, are content with the contractual work which has been their mainstay during and since the war, rather than launch out into any sort of speculative development, however much the latter may be sponsored or aided.

A number of these private enterprise projects, in larger or smaller block-developments, are materializing in various parts of the country. While no factual survey of them exists and it is difficult to sum them up accurately, we strongly suspect that they are mainly concerned with sites and locations scheduled for such business before the war and now classified as "ripe for development." When these sort of propositions are worked out will there be any further

substantial private-enterprise expansion of housing?

A Government circular, recently issued, encourages the extension of non-traditional house construction and the use of proprietary methods of erecting houses. These were methods which were worked over during and after the war in attempts to meet or catch up with the housing shortage. It could be done then at almost any cost, now it is more important to reduce costs. Nearly all architects and most surveyors know that prefabrication, whatever may be its theoretical advantages, costs more than wellorganized traditional site work, wherever the size of the development will permit adequate organization. They also know why this is so. Small houses, if they are to be cheap, cannot stand overhead loads due to factory establishments and conditions incurred away from the erection sites and, what is even more important, they cannot face the costs of the additional transport that such methods imply,

In fact, to match the theoretical advantages ascribed to prefabrication, traditional methods can also put forward a theoretical proposition: that the cheapest houses will be those that are erected with the structural materials that are found or made on the site or within a short haulage distance. The costs of labour and its transport are governed by not very dissimilar considerations.

The latest move of the Government is to set up a committee to consider what action can be taken "to increase speed and efficiency in the construction of house interiors." The members appointed to do this work do not include private architects, any surveyors or builders, nor are the manufacturers of interior components represented; above all no technical representative of the British Standards

Institution is on the committee. The use of standards for internal components and trim for housing has probably done more for the housing drive, both in reducing costs and increasing speed of erection, than any other single factor.

But what is such a committee to do; if they find that more and more standardization, more and more prefabrication, more and more transport facilities will be required to be effective, and if they report that this is so, it will then mean that the Government may have to set up a new committee to increase the speed and efficiency of house exteriors, to be followed by another committee to discover the effect of the new designs on site layout and road planning, to be followed by still another committee to reorganize the distribution of materials and transport and then perhaps . . . " La Ronde " is not a political film—but

might it not inspire one on more political lines?

These matters are national and regional, calling for planned attacks on the lines which made "D" day what it was; they are determinable by the facts of the case and by the scientific use of the knowledge of the past and the present. Piecemeal scratchings will not produce the required results and although this country has often relied on accident or sectarian action to pull it through bad times, it cannot rely on such extemporizations for ever. This principle is being realized elsewhere: for example the recent highproductivity in the housing field in Belgium has been almost entirely due to the recognition of the importance of standardization governed by the basis of a partially applied underlying modular co-ordination. We wonder how far afield the new Government will conduct its investigation?



The Festival Pleasure Gardens, Battersea Park, was reopened by the Minister of Works on Saturday. The picture above shows one of the new attractions, a Show Boat designed by Mr. Rowland Emett.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

THE R.I.B.A. RECEPTION

Last year at the time of the R.I.B.A. Reception I grumbled that we had so far had scarcely a warm day to cheer us. I have no such complaints this year, but the current spell of brilliant weather may perhaps have accounted for the apparent falling off in numbers at the Reception. Although the building was warm, it was not uncomfortable and the fact that there was much more space in which to circulate made the evening more enjoyable. Perhaps it was because I had been to a particularly good pre-reception party that I enjoyed myself even more than usual. The pattern of events was much the same as usual with one very important addition, a paving bar. This, I am sure, from what I overheard and saw, was much appreciated, not only for the fillip which it gave to the proceedings but also for its very reasonable charges. Please may it be made a permanent feature of the Reception? I personally thought that to have puppets again was a mistake but the bulk of the guests evidently did not think so. The presence of the bar relieved somewhat the pressure on the buffet but there was a curious interlude when the waiters quite losing their heads, roughly and with harsh cries, drove everyone from the room so that they might get themselves straight.

This year there was a pleasant variation in the floral decorations. In other years they have been good but perhaps slightly ordinary. On Friday, indoor foliage plants in great profusion of foliage took the place of flowers, thus giving particular point to the recent excellent issue of the Architectural Review which was devoted to indoor gardening; a subject on which Peter Shepheard is to speak at the A.A. before this appears in print.

It is sad to record that there were fewer young people than ever at the Reception and there seemed to be many absentees among the regular attenders. Of the twelve people I could recognize in my last year's picture only three were there this year. Easily the best-dressed man present was the Bishop of Kensington in purple frock coat, breeches and silk stockings. How wise of the church to retain such splendid formal dress. Sir Patrick Abercrombie, wearing his Royal Gold Medal, was accompanied by his son Niel who is on holiday from Australia. As usual, I was just beginning to think that it was going to be a very good party when the band played God Save the Oueen.

POSTCARDS

In these days almost everyone has a camera and many Americans have at least two, but even this does not seem seriously to affect the demand for picture postcards of historic buildings and places. The standard of photography displayed in our postcards is not universally high and compares on the whole unfavourably with such series abroad as the French "Yvon"—I like the deckle edge, too, but I do not suggest that it should be used here. Some of the postcards sold in this country are produced by the M.o.W. and they formed the subject of a question in the House recently. Mr. R. A. Allan (M.P. for Paddington S.), asked the Minister whether he was aware that postcards produced by his Department were often inadequate

and unsatisfactory. Mr. Eccles, in a written reply, said Yes Sir, and a good deal more, and promptly set up a committee to advise him. Although the committee includes Sir Francis Meynell—and this should ensure good production—and representatives of the photographic world it has no specifically architectural photographer upon it. This may not matter in the long run, but I hope that the committee will bear in mind that architectural photography is a specialized branch of the profession. The idea is that the new series of pictures in black and white and in colour should be ready for the Coronation. Hurry! Hurry!

HAMMERSMITH SCHOOL OF BUILDING

This exhibition, illustrated here last week, and which closed at the Building Centre last Saturday, was entirely arranged and constructed by the students. It was a brave show, particularly when one considers what the departments of architecture of most schools of building were producing as little as five years ago. When the school settles down I have no doubt that it will produce some good architects; at present some of the work of the later years is too obviously derivative for comfort.

EDITORIAL COMPETITION WINNERS

It would be churlish and unwise for me to suggest that the editorial department of the A. & B.N. is underemployed, but it is nevertheless curious and worthy of note that in recent months the Editor has won prizes in competitions as widely divergent as the designing of a memorial to the Good Old Days of Architecture and re-styling of the A.A. badge, while George Mansell, his assistant, not only shared the prize for solving this year's A.A. architectural quiz but more recently won the senior singles-Stapleford Bogey Competition-of the Building Alliance Golfing Society's spring meeting. He also won the Society's challenge cup. A report says that his handicap is 6 and gave his winning score as 32. I think that this must be a mistake for I do not believe that even the assistant editor of the A. & B.N. could go round in two over two's. To competition winners of this calibre the running of an architectural paper should come pretty

ROYAL ENGINEERS ROLL OF HONOUR

A great many architects have served at one time or another in the Sappers. A strong representation from the profession can therefore be expected at St. Paul's Cathedral at 11.30 on June 17 when the roll of honour of the Corps for the 1939-45 war will be laid up. Anyone who served at any time in the Corps is invited.

SELF-HELP BUILDING

The current interest in and controversy about self-help building organizations is bound to focus attention on non-traditional building systems which are suitable for erection by semi-skilled labour. If I personally were engaged in such an enterprise I think that I would try my skill on a bungalow first. This, judging from enquiries I have received, is a fairly widespread feeling. Myton, Ltd., of Kingston-upon-Hull have designed just such a bunga-



THE "PUNT" ROOF.

A system of roof construction using boxes or "punts" made of plywood has been evolved by Ove Arup & Partners as an answer to a request by the Herts County Council Architect's Department, for an alternative construction in timber to fit their 3ft 4in modular system. The picture shows architects looking at the prototype last week at the works of the City Display Organisation wha have made it. In the foreground are (L to R) J. B. Shaw, F.R.S., Yorke and Ove Arup. A fully illustrated article on the roofing system will be published in next week's issue of the "A. & B. N."

low. It is quite a presentable building although a predilection for tall, narrow windows rather spoils it for me. The Hull Development Committee recently held a Homes and Gardens exhibition and Messrs. Myton erected one of their bungalows as an exhibit there.

R.I.B.A. PRESIDENT'S TOUR

The President and Mrs. Henderson and the Secretary seem to have enjoyed their Canadian and United States visits. Not much has leaked out yet but I did hear that in Portland, Oregon, the party was described as "British Architecture's top Brass."

RAVENNA MOSAICS

I find, as you probably do, that I miss many exhibitions that I ought to see. However, one that I didn't miss was the Arts Council exhibition of Ravenna Mosaic reproductions at the Burlington Galleries. A rather subdued light very much helped the excellent reproductions, which glow and sparkle with intense colour. These replicas have been made by some devoted Ravenna artists—the Bottega de Mosaico—assisted by students of the Accademia di Belle Arti de Ravenna.

The exactness of the reproduction can be seen by watch-

ing a mosaicist at work in one of the rooms, where he has a large wooden box with many different colours and tones of resserae to hand from which he picks a piece at a time to match his model, shapes with a tweezer-like tool and eventually, after a long stare at his model, plants with his thumb in the lime-plaster bed.

The trick of it lies in the unevenness of the bed and the varying angles of the tesserae (the gold ones are placed flat).

This irregularity prevents mirroring and adds enormously to the beauty of the wall surface. Why have we departed so far from the irregularity of antique craftsmanship and substituted machine standards? Nearly everything one admires in museums has this assymetry.

I believe Mr. Spence has decided to use mosaics in parts of Coventry Cathedral and has his eye on a mosaic artist at work over here. I for one am convinced that the best living artists could design magnificent mosaics. The late Paul Klee had the genius for pattern and colour that mosaic work requires: Tapestry weaving in France has been revived in a glorious fashion. Mosaics can be too, at the same level of design.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Construction of House Interiors Committee Appointed

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, has appointed a committee whose terms of reference are "to consider and report on what action can be taken to increase speed and efficiency in the construction of house interiors."

The Committee, to be known as the Bailey Committee on House Interiors, will have as their chairman Sir Donald Bailey, inventor of the Bailey Bridge. They met for the first time on May 28.

They will consider the construction of the interior of a house from all points of view, the object being to promote speed and efficiency and thereby to increase the numbers of houses completed. They will be glad to receive evidence on efficient methods of construction and manufacture.

The members of the Committee are: Sir Donald C. Bailey, O.B.E., D.Eng., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Struct.E. (Chairman), inventor of the Bailey Bridge, now Superintendent of the Ministry of Supply Military Engineering Experimental Establishment. The Dowager Marchioness of Reading, G.B.E., Chairman of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence, member of the Central Housing Advisory Committee. Mr. S. Bunton, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.A.S., town planning and industrial consultant. Sir Luke Fawcett, O.B.E., General Secretary, Arnalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. Mr. H. J. Manzoni, C.B.E., M.Inst.C.E., City Engineer, Birmingham, Chairman of the Building Divisional Council of the British Standards Institution. Mr. A. J. Filer, Director-General of Building Materials, Ministry of Works. Mr. J. H. Forshaw, M.C., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., Chief Architeot, Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Dr. F. M. Lea, C.B.E., F.R.I.C., Director of the Building Research.

The Painted Hall, Greenwich

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in conjunction with the Ministry of Works, announce that as from Whit Sunday, June 1, 1952, the Painted Hall in the buildings of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, will be open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for an experimental period of three months.

The Painted Hall is already open to the public from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on week-days except Thursdays. Admission is free. The Painted Hall was designed by Wren in 1698 and completed in 1706. The ceiling of the

Great Hall, and the ceiling and walls of the Upper Hall, are decorated with paintings by Thornhill executed in 1718-1727.

Third Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention

The Minister of Labour and National Service, Sir Walter Monckton, M.P., will open the Third Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention at Olympia, London, on Wednesday, June 4.

The Exhibition, the largest of its kind in the world, will contain every type of mechanical handling equipment, much of it in operation.

Twenty-seven of the productivity teams which have visited the United States under the auspices of the Anglo-American Council on Productivity have devoted large parts of their reports to mechanical handling, and the Materials Handling Productivity Team's own report has been a best-seller (22,692 copies of the full report and 25,567 of the condensed one). Much of the equipment referred to in these reports will be shown and the Materials Handling Productivity Team is to give the Convention evidence of how British factories have benefited by following the recommendations made in the various reports.

In response to a circular sent out by Keighley Town Council to over 3,000 tenants and persons on the waiting list for Corporation houses, only 15 replies from would-be purchasers were received. The circular gave the probable cost of a new 2-bedroom house as about £1,500 and of a 3-bedroom house as £1,650. Purchaser would be required to deposit £150, or £165, plus survey fees and legal costs, and repayments for 2-bedroom houses would be at the rate of £1 18s a week for 20 years, and £1 10s for 30 years respectively, with rates extra.

Mr. C. E. M. Fillmore, F.R.I.B.A., has been elected President of the Birmingham and Five Counties Architectural Association for 1952-53.

A Press Association report says that Sir Hugh Casson and Messrs. Robert Atkinson have each been invited to submit plans for the new Cambridge University development on a site in Sidgwick Avenue to cost £1,250,000.

Mr. Frank Scott, L.R.I.B.A., has been appointed Chief Architect to the East Kilbride Development Corporation. Mr. Scott is chief housing architect for Glasgow Corporation.

A team of London builders drawn from the ranks of the L.M.B.A. beat the R.I.B.A. by 95 runs in a match on the Pearl Assurance ground at New Malden last week.

The L.M.B.A. batted first. With the score at 197 for 7 [J. Seward 81 not out) they declared, and put the R.I.B.A. in half an hour before the tea interval. R.I.B.A. were all out for 102.

IN PARLIAMENT

Review of Licensing

The building licensing system is being reviewed by the Government, and their decision is expected some time in June. Mr. Molson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, gave a hint on May 19 that the Government "may find it possible to make some relaxations which will make the general licensing system in the future less onerous than it has been."

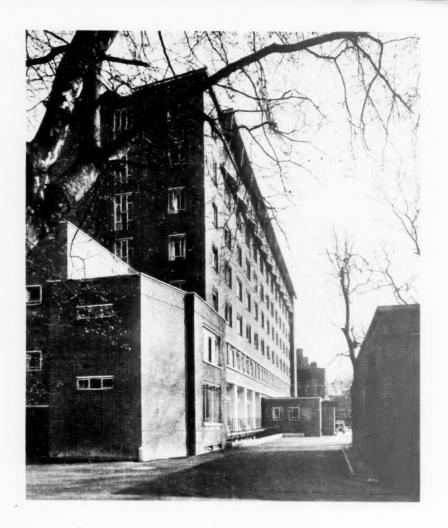
He made this general observation in the course of a reply to a particular case, presented by Mr. Leather, that the Ministry should reverse its refusal to allow the construction of a football stand in a Somerset mining village, where all the materials were available on the site and the labour would be voluntary. The materials in this case were steel which had been bought two years ago at an Air Ministry disposal sale, and asbestos sheets, of which Mr. Leather said that far from there being a shortage production was being cut because stocks could not be sold. Mr. Molson would not accept the argument that because the materials were available on the site a licence should be granted. To do that, he said, would mean that it would soon come about that all the materials necessary for particular buildings, some having a great deal of money behind them, would be very readily available on the spot. would impose a strain on the steel allocation system if it came about that were steel made available by the black market a licence could afterwards be obtained.

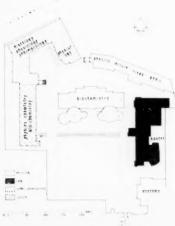
The £100 Limit

On the same subject Mr. Donner asked the Minister of Works on May 20 whether, since less work could be carried out under the £100 free limit owing to the rise in building costs, he would now raise that limit. Mr. Eccles said that the rise in building costs was one of several factors to be taken into account in deciding on the amount which might be spent without licence in the period beginning July 1.

Steel Window Frames

Mr. McGovern asked the President of the Board of Trade if he was aware that the Steel Window Frame Makers' Association fixed the prices to be inserted in every schedule, gave different prices to each contractor and thereby decided the firm who should get each contract, and conveyed the impression that competition was operating; and if he would end this monopolistic practice. Mr. Henry Strauss, the Parliamentary Secretary, replied without expressing any view on the allegations contained in the question, the President would bear them in mind when he next selected matters for reference to the Monopolies Commission, If Mr. McGovern knew of particular cases he would be glad to have details.





Students' Hostel

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE

architects:
- EASTON & ROBERTSON



The West Elevation

THE new Hostel is the first part to be completed of a scheme of reconstruction and expansion of the Medical School which suffered very severely from enemy action during the war.

The first development plan, approved by the College in 1946, envisaged the new hostel in its present position on the east side of the site, but with part of the new laboratory block at right angles and linked to it. The Library incorporated in that block was planned to form part of the suite of common rooms available for the medical students in

conjunction with those in the hostel. This arrangement, whilst providing convenient circulation, involved the loss of part of the lawn which is the special and unexpected feature of this College situated so near the heart of the City. At the last moment it became possible to acquire additional land including a part of the Master's Garden of the adjacent Charterhouse, and the Teaching Departments (on which construction has begun) are now placed on the west and north parts of the site. are connected to the hostel by an underground passage indicated by a flagged path across the lawn opposite the porch. The latter was to have formed the abutment of the bridge linking the two buildings, and, in a slightly modified form, the excrescence had to remain for it was an essential part of the plan of a building already structurally complete.

In determining the general character of the building the architects were not unaware that an all-glass curtain wall structure might best typify the forward-looking spirit of its occupants—the medical men of the future. Nor were they—the designers—unaware of those architectural and other devices which could, by excluding heat, cold, air, glare and even rain, render such a building habitable—

sometimes even comfortable—and at all times photogenic.

Many considerations, including cost, seemed, however, to point backwards in the direction of a wall with holes in it and the task became an exercise in the organization of window and wall.

By a stroke of luck, an abrupt change of sex occurs at sixth floor level. This was deemed a sufficient excuse for a departure from the normal fenestration of the male floors. The protection of a deep roof slab, the ripple of balconies, the less squat proportion of the windows—all these seemed appropriate to the female floor and they were, anyhow, just what the building wanted—ladies or no ladies

The internal planning follows the recommendations of the Report by the Vice-Chancellor's Committee on the planning of University Halls of Residence.

In the present case the residential accommodation is for 100 students and domestic staff, but the dining and common rooms, etc., are designed to accommodate an additional 200 day students.

These common rooms and the extensive lavatory and locker accommodation occupy the lower ground and ground floors; above are the bed-sitting rooms.

The bed-sitting rooms are based on a grid of 14ft x 11ft 6in, and W.C. accommodation in the ratio of one to five students, lavatory basins one to two, baths one to five.

The common rooms consist of a dining room to accommodate 150 at one sitting, a recreation room 42ft × 28ft, music room 18ft × 16ft, common room 33ft × 30ft.

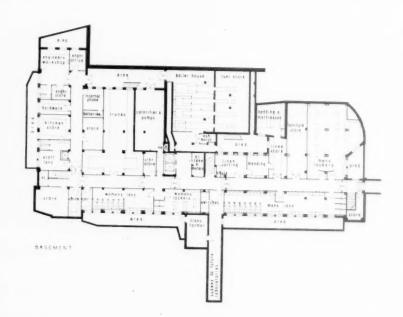
Some of the furniture has been specially designed for the new building, but in certain of the rooms furniture from the existing Students' Union has been used.

Consideration has been given throughout to minimizing

[Continued on page 624

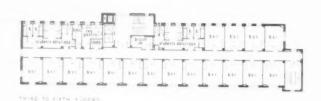


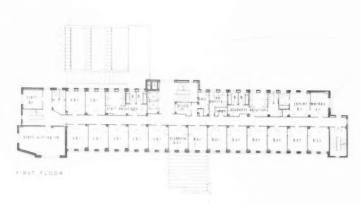


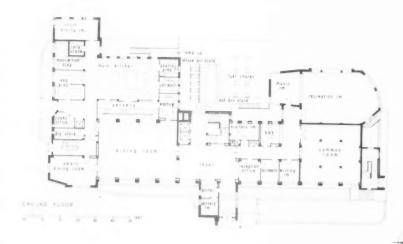


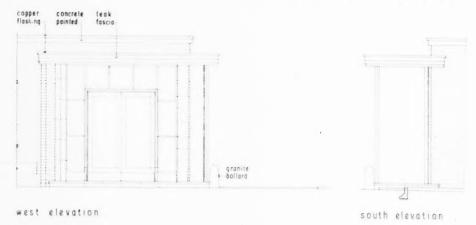
STUDENTS' HOSTEL.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF









portland stone facing york stone paving section x x forming column scalumn

details of the Main Entrance

Continued from page 621

maintenance costs, to reducing noise in the study-bedrooms and to providing finishes capable of standing up to the traditionally tough behaviour of medical students.

The building is of steel frame construction, reinforced hollow tile floors, roof and staircases. The external walls are 14in cavity, the outer skin being of 9in brickwork, the inner 2½in concrete block. The internal partitions are of breeze block with solid brick-on-edge partitions between the bed-sitting rooms, and the doors to all the bed-sitting rooms are of special fireproof and sound deadening construction. Steel casements have been used throughout.

The roof slabs (copper covered) are slightly tilted towards a central gutter and the soffits of the overhang and of the balconies on the west front are painted blue.

The predominant external colour is the buff of the Buckinghamshire bricks set off by Portland stone and white paint. But the balcony rails at ground floor level are olive green with panels of lime yellow.

Colour is also made to play considerable part in the interior both in the common rooms and in the bedrooms.

The former are heated by embedded heating panels. Background heating is provided in each bed-sitting room by a radiator, supplemented by a small electric fire under the control (within limits) of the occupants.

There are internal telephones in each of the bed-sitting rooms, and a call system is provided on each floor with a sustained ringing tone for an alarm.

STUDENTS' HOSTEL,
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
HOSPITAL,
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Trial Holes: Soil Mechanics Ltd. Drainage: T. S. Knight & Son (Plumbing) Ltd. Design and construction of RC slabs and retaining walls: British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd. Structural Steel: Banister Walton & Co. Ltd. Structural floors: The Kleine Co. Ltd. Heating, hot water and gas services. Troughton & Young (Heating) Electrics and Light fittings Troughton & Young Ltd.
Plumbing: Arthur Scuil & Son Ltd. Lifts: Waygood Otis Ltd. Metal casements | C. E. Welstead Ltd. Sanitary fittings: Shanks & Co. Ltd. Kitchen Equipment: Benham & Sons Ltd. Iron staircases: F. A. Norris & Co. Ltd. Lightning conductors: J. W. Gray & Son Ltd. Linen chute: W. & C. Pantin Ltd. Refrigerators: J. & E. Hall Ltd. Loose and Built-in furniture: D. Burkle & Son Ltd. Fire appliances and Moving screen. Merryweather & Sons Ltd. Shower curtains, curtain rods, etc.: Furdecor Ltd. Folding partition: Esavian Ltd. Ironmongery: N. F. Ramsay & Co. Ltd. Ironmongery: Yannedis & Co. Ltd. Ironmongery: Nettlefold & Moser Ltd. Door furniture: Joseph Kaye & Sons Ltd. Bar counter and fittings; C. E. White & Co. Ltd. Lettering and numerals: The Lettering Centre. Posting box: W. Clark & Son (Canonbury) Ltd. Anodized aluminium shield: Wm. Pickford Ltd. Collapsible gates: The Bostwick Gate & Shutter Co. Ltd. Facing bricks: R. Y. Ames. Paint: Sherwoods Paints Ltd. Paint: Vitretex Surfaces Ltd. Glazed wall tiling: Carter & Co. (London) Ltd. False ceiling lining to corridor: Anderson Construction Co. Ltd. Paxtiles: Newalls Insulation Co. Ltd. Gas fired incinerator: William Sugg & Co. Ltd. Painting and acoustic plaster: C. & T. Painters Ltd. Metal railings and balustrades: B. Finch & Co. Ltd. Metal railings and balustrades: G. Johnson Bros. Ltd. Copper roofing: Fred. Braby & Co. Ltd. Asphalt: Val de Travers Asphalt Paving Co. Ltd. Clocks: Gent & Co. Ltd. Linoleum: Korkoid Decorative Floors Ltd. Internal telephones: Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd. Plastering: Jenners Builders Ltd. Flush doors: Humphreys Ltd. Portland Stone: South-Western Stone Co. Ltd. Glass: Aygee Ltd. Terrazzo: Diespeker & Co. Ltd. Roof ventilators: Colt Ventilation Ltd. Fireplace marble: Walton Gooddy (Construction Ltd.).

Steel decking and bituminous ply roofing: Ruberoid Co. Ltd. Wood black and strip flooring: Hollis Bros. Ltd. False ceiling suspension: Steel Bracketing & Lathing Ltd.

Sculpture: Miss Spencer Watson.



West Front and Entrance

Architects: Easton & Robertson,
Contractors: Humphreys Ltd.
Quantity Surveyors: Hamilton H. Turner & Son,
Foreman: Mr. G. Farrall.

Clerk of Works : Mr. G. A. Shepherd.



Students' Hostel: Ground Floor Foyer



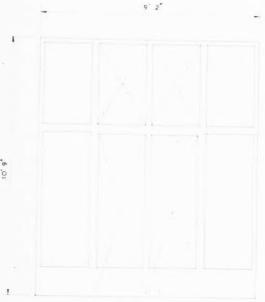
The Common Room



Typical Room for Men Students



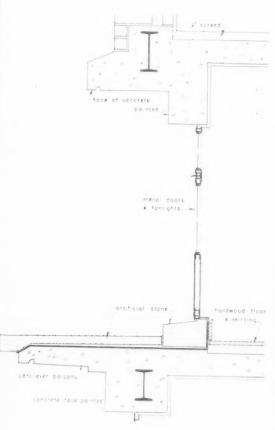




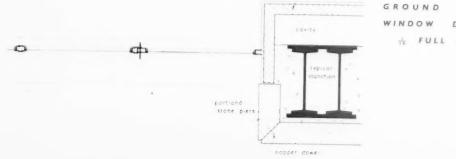
STUDENTS . HOSTEL

ST. BART'S HOSPITAL

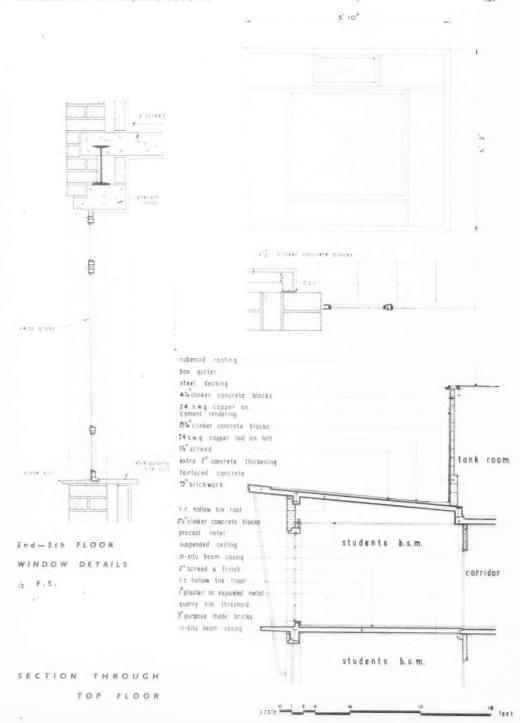
ARCHITECTS: EASTON & ROBERTSON

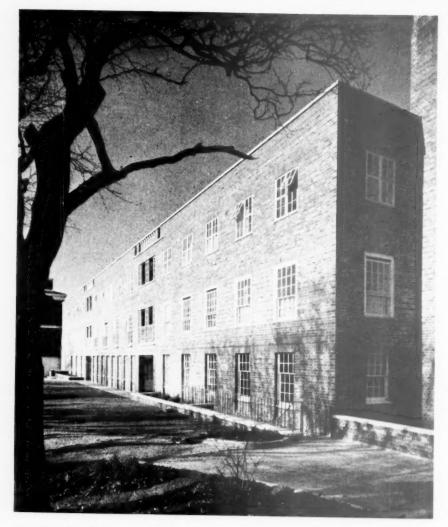


2'2 clinker concrete blocks



FLOOR DETAILS + FULL SIZE





S WAIL HOUSE, EPSOM

ARCHITECT: J. B. F. CORPER, F.R.I.B.A.

A BEQUEST by the late Miss Martha Swail has enabled the London Association of the Blind to carry out a scheme by which 81 blind people live in their own flats and, with some assistance, look after themselves.

Pivoting on the existing Swail House in Ashley Road, Epsom, two new wings totalling 51 flats have been added. They are furnished individually by the tenants. The scheme, which cost approximately £63,000, was commenced in May, 1949, and completed in June, 1951.

Swall House was opened last week by Mr. Malcolm McCorquodale and dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford.

Accommodation provided

In existing Swail House: Kitchen, medical officer's room, sculleries, service rooms, larders, 9 bed-sitting rooms.

In new building: 29 Bed-sitting Rooms

36 One Bed-roomed Flats 2 Two-Bed-roomed Flats

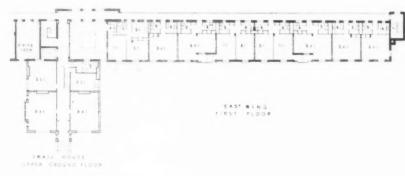
Total 67

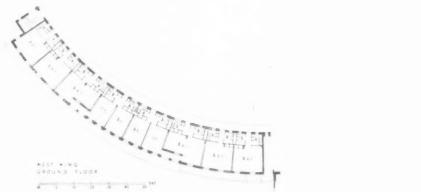
Design

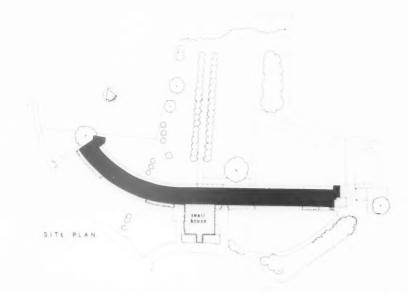
The Architect submitted to the local Town Planning Authority preliminary designs for a building of a contemporary nature. The design was not accepted by the advisors to the Town Planning Authority who insisted that the elevations should be of an Eighteenth Century character, claiming that they would be more in keeping with the existing mid-Victorian houses adjoining.

Construction

Particular care was taken in choosing the facing bricks to ensure a good match with the brick work of the existing Swall House. Those used were Crowboroughs. The con-



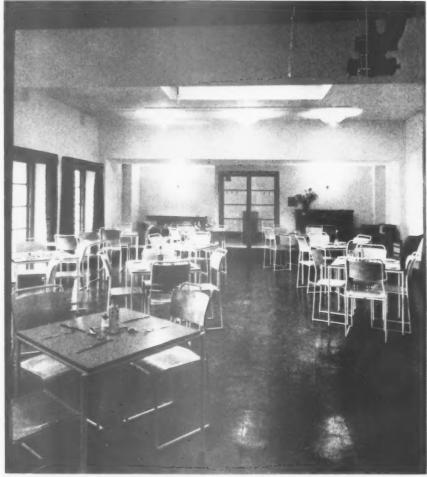








The New West Wing



The Restaurant and Recreation Room

Continued from page 630]

struction generally is normal. The floors have reinforced concrete fire-proof construction supported on reinforced concrete beams and columns.

Heating and Hot Water

The installation is entirely heated by oil fuel.

Sanitation

No sanitary pipes are anywhere in evidence. Large, easily accessible internal ducts are provided. Access by means of three staircases constructed of reinforced concrete fire-resisting with delicate wrought iron balcony connection between the three.

Each flat has a kitchenette containing sink, double draining board, electric cooker, larder, meter cupboard, store cupboard and broom cupboard. In addition wardrobe cupboards are provided in the bed-recesses or bedrooms and a coat cupboard at the entrance.

Sound insulation is provided by use of fibre board on the ceilings and Accotile cork floor finishes.

Laundry rooms including washing tubs and drying rooms

are provided on first and second floors.

Architect: J. B. F. Cowper, F.R.I.B.A.
Assistants in charge: E. G. Cole, A.R.I.B.A., Ann Towns.
General Contractor: H. H. & F. Roll, Ltd., of Epsom.
Heating Engineer: H. E. Eldred, Ltd., of Wembley.
Electrical Engineers: Buchanan and Curwen of Leather-head

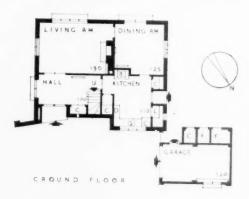
head.

Sub-contractors

R. C. Floors and Stairs: Messrs. Kleine Company, Ltd.
Heating and Hot Water Services: Messrs. H. E. Eldred & Co., Ltd.
Electrical installation: Messrs. Buchanen and Curwen, Ltd.
W. I. Balustrades & Balconies: Messrs. Haskins, Ltd.
Lantern Lights: The Criticall Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
Floor Finishes: Korkoid Decorative Floors.
Goods Lift: Messrs. Johnson, Ltd.
Wall Tiling: Messrs. Jaylor.
Asphalters, Roof and Tanking: Highways Construction, Ltd.
Purpose-made Deal Windows: H. H. & F. Roll, Ltd.
Sanitary Fittings: Sittsons.
Artificial Stone: The Atlas Stone Company.
Facing Bricks (Crowborough, Sussey): Messrs. Greenhams.
Ironmongery and Door Furniture: Messrs. Comyn Ching & Co., Ltd.



View from N.E.





FIRST FLOOR

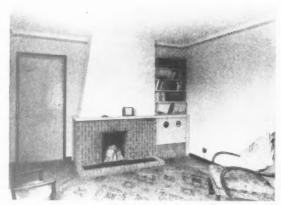


House at Fetcham, Leatherhead

ARCHITECT;
EDWARD BANKS,
F.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A.

The house, sited on a 60ft wide plot with northern aspect to the front, is built with cavity walls in traditional construction, which is expressed in its design,

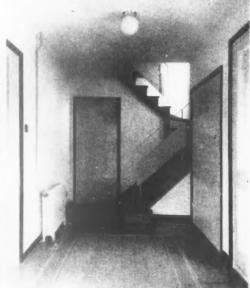
The contract cost of the house and garage, which contain 14,700 cubic feet (1,235 net floor area) and 2,080 cubic feet (165 net area) respectively, amounted to £1,925, when built in the latter half of 1950.



The Living Room



Main Contractors: Gardner Estates Ltd., Fercham.
Sub-Contractors
Electrical Installation: Buxton & Longley Ltd.,
Floor Laying: R. W. Brooke & Co.,
Roof Tiling: Hall & Co.,
suppliers
facing Bricks: London Brick Co.,
Common Bricks: London Brick Co.,
Metal Windows: Williams & Williams Ltd.,
Roof Tiles: J. Board & Co.,
Joinery: Midland Woodworking Co.



Kitchen and Entrance Hall

Plaster Vents: Cozens Ventilators Ltd.
Boiler: Ideal Boilers Ltd.
Sanitary Fittings: Associated Clay Industries Ltd.
Metal Sink: Stainless Steel Sink Co.
Iron Balustrade and Gates: G. Wakeling & Son,
Electric Fires: Frost & Co.
Door Furniture: F. Knight & Co.
Internal Finishes: Walpamur Co.
External Wall Finish: Cement Marketing Co.
External Wall Finish: Cement Marketing Co.
External Font: Associated Lead Manufacturer: Ltd.
Paving Slabs: E. & L. Berg Ltd.
Thermo-plastic Floor Tiles: Armstrong Cork Co.



HOUSE AT NEW ELTHAM, S.E.9

ARCHITECT: OLIVER E. STEER. A.R.I.B.A. A.M.T.F.I.

THE former house was classified as a "total loss," and subsequently re-classified "Cost of Works" payment by the War Damage Commission, who contributed £3,387 18s 4d towards the cost of rebuilding.

A garage was considered a necessity and this, with the hall and cloakroom on a 33ft wide plot, set a problem to adequately light the main room. The splayed partition to the cloakroom was introduced to reduce the "tunnel" effect.

The cubic content had to be kept to that of the original house; a set-back on the front enabled this to be done, and give reasonable shaped bedrooms, no door was provided to the balcony thus formed as it faces North-East.

The house is centrally heated by a bailer in the basement under the stairs, domestic hot water being provided by a Calorifier in winter and two immersion heaters in summer.

A sliding folding partition between

Hall and Lounge enables the whole ground floor space excepting the kitchen to be used freely for parties etc.

The use of the one-pipe system for plumbing kept the front elevation clear of soil pipes, all service and heating pipes being concealed in special ducts.

Other items of interest include a hardwood staircase, "Nevastane" kitchen fitments, and a marble fire surround by Froys. The "ring main"



View of the Lounge looking towards Dining Room



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Former house on site



system was adopted for the electrical installation.

The General Contractors were : Messrs Payne & Wright, Chislehurst, Kent.

The sculptured plaque over the parch, representing the Greek Legend of Leda and the Swan, was executed by James Wedgwood.

The total cost including a small greenhouse and fences was £4,191 5s 7d. The house took ten months to complete.

New Showroom for Coal Utilization Council in Glasgow

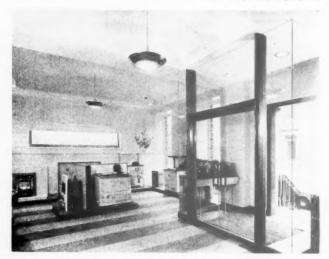
THE extension of the activities of the Coal Utilization Council to Scotland was formally signified by the opening of a new showroom and training centre on behalf of the Scottish branch of the Council at 341, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Thursday, May 15.

The Scottish branch actually came into being last April, when it received the full support of the Scottish National Coal Board, Scottish appliance manufacturers, and of the Scottish Fuel Efficiency Committee, whose chairman, Sir Patrick Dollan, has long been a vociferous exponent of the solid fuel-burning appliances as opposed to the wasteful open fire so beloved of Scottish housewres. The difficulty of obtaining suitable premises, however, was only overcome when it was agreed to adapt a tenement building in Bath Street, Glasgow, into a combined showroom and training centre for the instruction of staffs of approved appliance distributors in installation procedure.

Present at the opening ceremony were Mr. Eric Bellingham, O.B.E., LL.B., Director-General of the Coal Utilization Council; Mr. W. MacLeod, Chairman of the Scottish Committee and Deputy Marketing Director of the National Coal Board, Scottish Committee; Mr. W. Rennie, J.P., Chairman and Managing Director of Federated Foundries, Ltd., Glasgow; Sir Patrick Dollan, LL.D., D.L., J.P.; and Mr. A. L. Dallas, Scottish Officer, Coal Utilization Council. The housewife's angle was represented by Mrs. O. M. Willis, M.B.E., Regional Organizer, Scottish Women's Advisory Committee on Solid Fuel.

The new Scottish showrooms, as stated earlier, were originally a Glasgow tenement, flanked on either side by residential premises. Large-scale alterations carried out by the architect—Mr. A. Buchanan Campbell, D.A. (Glas.), A.R.I.B.A., former Deputy Director of the Scottish Building Centre—have transformed the premises into an up to date and attractive centre, the ground floor comprising a showroom of 700 sq ft and block of offices of 500 sq ft, and a basement area divided to form two demonstration rooms and a lecture hall capable of seating about twenty persons.

The classical stone doorway has been retained, but by removing the window breasts and by splaying the ingoes of the windows back into the showroom an uninterrupted view of the appliances within has been gained. The addition of "Armour-plate" glass doors and a glass vestibule adds to the appearance of the entrance and yields improved vision from outside.





A feeling of spaciousness within the showroom has been enhanced by the laying of 18in alternate strips of brown and red linoleum, and the reception desk, carried out in mahogany with a fluted front, is backed with a large, rough-textured "Cellotex" panel in a deep rust shade, studded with beech buttons. Lighting consists of Troughton and Young fitments, with flush spotlights in each corner and in the vestibule. The various display wall panels are lettered in burnt sienna against an off-white background, illuminated with fluorescent lighting.

The main contractors were Archibald Hamilton (Shopfitters), Ltd., of Glasgow, and the cost of adaptation of the premises was approximately £4.500.

Mr. A. L. Dallas, Scottish Officer of the Scottish Branch of the Coal Utilization Council, has extended to Scottish local authorities, architects and to the public generally, an invitation to visit the Council's new premises at an early date. It is also hoped that Scottish architectural and building students will make full use of these new facilities.

Over 80 designers from all parts of the Country attended the 7th Designers' Conference organized by the British Colour Council from May 12-15.

LIBRARY NOTES

Art and the Nature of Architecture

By Rruce Allsopp; pp. xi - 124, 8 illustrations. Pitman, London, 1952. 16s net.

THIS little volume is an essay rather than a treatise with a curious title. Or, perhaps, it should be noted rather as a series of essays, not always too well connected, having as titles the parts of the book, "The Theory of Art" (the indefinite article might be more appropriate because the theory or idea to which the definite article is here attached does not yet exist, and perhaps never will, and that might be a good thiag!); "Asthetic Fallacies and the Interpretation of History" (most, if not all, formal aesthetics contain fallacies but it is not necessary for historians to use them for the interpretation of the past); "Becoming an Artist," in which are included some sound remarks on the problem of training an architect, and "The Principles of Criticism."

This is one of those books which probably had to be written, and the author feels better now that it is done. It would have been better, however, from some points of view, to have spent longer on incubation, and then, too, on the preparations for flight. While there are many sound thoughts and even profound probings contained within its pages, there are also some signs of pre-digested ideas which, if not indicative of the author's internal sufferings, may produce some indigestion in the reader. Philosophy is a difficult subject, especially when the subject of its analysis is almost a complete system of philosophy itselfarchitecture. Meaning and the meaning of meaning are apt to get muddled at times, and this is a state from which most modern art-criticism suffers. This book seems to be instinctive rather than deductive and to trust the subjective rather than the objective, which is the great part of art and architecture. The true way lies in a recognition of balance of both thought and application-which, after all, is as good a definition of architecture as any other.

It would be easy to pick out of their context examples of wisdom and appreciation, such as the juxtaposition of the Bellini and the Leighton "condottieri" illustrations; or to make comments on what appear to be examples of incompatibility (or lacunæ at the least), such as, "It is not the object of an artist to arouse emotion" (p. 31), and "Art is the creative, conscious, imaginative activity whereby we express our emotions" (p. 32), which, even if it is not a complete definition of art, is not as consistent as is desirable.

But it is better that the book should be read and, according to the readers' outlook and his past history, will be found agreement or disagreement. Perhaps sometime Mr. Allsopp will have second thoughts; we shall look forward to them for they should be as interesting as is this essay.

The book is well produced and bound; there are eight full-page illustrations and an index.

S. ROWLAND PIERCE.

Bedford by the River

THIS town planning report has been prepared by the Max Lock Group for the Bedford Corporation and is published by John Murray, Ltd., London, price 21s net.

Those architects who follow architectural competitions will recall that in 1940 competitions were held in connection with additions to the Municipal Offices and the Shire Hall, both adjacent to the river. Owing to site difficulties, these projects never proceeded, but the Corporation felt that if a repetition of their site difficulties was not to occur again when further proposals were considered, they should have a comprehensive report presenting a plan which would guide them in their future developments.

This report differs in certain respects from many other planning reports, as it has been both written and presented to be read by the layman. It is well illustrated with photographs and plans. The latter might have been made more easily understood for the layman.

The idea of working backwards is worthy of note and might be worth repeating in other reports. By working backwards I mean that Chapter One deals with a review of the proposals. These are usually tucked away at the end of a report as though an after-thought and must often be overlooked.

This chapter also has a paragraph which is worthy of commendation—a balance sheet setting out the merits and chief drawbacks of Bedford.

If the Councillor or layman does not get past the first chapter he has read the plan, and his interest in the wellbeing of his town is bound to have been awakened.

One of Bedford's main problems is one of communications and this has been dealt with at some length. Secondly comes housing for this expanding town. The suggested staging of these proposals is a step in the right direction, but it is hoped there will be close relationship between the architects and the factoring section of the borough, or the redevelopment of the central areas may not be achieved.

The Town Centre proposals, whilst they may be ideal and therefore may, by some, be criticized as visionary, do provide a plan for the Council to have as their aim, and I hope this aim may, in part if not in the whole, be achieved.

This report is worthy of careful study

not only by those interested in the future of Bedford but by planners who have similar problems to those presented in this town by the river.

M. E. T.

Planen und Gestalten

By H. Langer. Publishers, Verlag für Architektur. A.G. Erlenbach, Zurich. Price 578 6d.

THIS publication is an excellent textbook on the planning and design of domestic buildings; it covers most thoroughly most of the problems a designer is likely to encounter in domestic work, including detached houses, terraced houses and flats. The author not only deals comprehensively with such technical problems as plumbing, heating, equipment and construction detail, but also sets out a considerable amount of valuable information on the arrangement of furniture, detail room planning, the grouping of buildings, siting and layout, and architectural character.

The various prints are illustrated throughout the book by means of sketches and drawings, indicating both unsatisfactory and satisfactory solutions to the various problems. In particular the large number of construction detail sketches will repay considerable study, and the author is to be commended for the illustrations alone, which are clearly drawn and of a very high architectural standard.

This book can be very strongly recommended to any architect or architectural student concerned with the problems of domestic building, for the thoroughness with which the author has treated this difficult subject makes "Planen und Gestalten" a most valuable work of reference.

The excellence of the layout, typography, diagrams and sketches is of considerable assistance in the co-ordination of the varied subject matter of the book, and the high standard of presentation and consistent excellence of the material makes the volume a pleasure to handle and use, and sets a high example to publishers of architectural books.

EDWARD D. MILLS.

Westminster Abbey, Its Worship and Ornaments

Vol. III. By Rev. Jocelyn Perkins, Alcuin Club Collections, XXXVIII, Oxford. 35s.

THE three volumes in this series are all more concerned with worshipping practice and liturgical paraphernalia than with the main architectural structure of Westminster Abbey. This one, dealing in its first section with the chapels that lead off the transepts and eastern ambulatory, is of somewhat less

interest, even for the ecclesiastical architect who finds much to do when called upon to provide the architectural setting for liturgical activity, than the two earlier volumes which described the chequered history of Westminster's choir, nave, and the chapels lying along the main axis of the The author, with a strong anti-18th century bias and an unintelligent hostility to most of the Abbey's post-Reformation monuments, is none the less an admirably loving and learned guide to the history of the Abbey's lesser chapels, and shows how their furnishing for the worship of late monastic times involved considerable architectural work; this was particularly true of the 13th-century chapel, whose eastern half was converted, in the manner of the Audley chapel at Hereford, into the two-storeyed chan-try of Abbot Islip (d. 1532). In post-Reformation times the Abbey was remarkable for its liturgical conservatism, and its survivals from the past were a special target for the Puritan attackers of 1643-4. The author points out how its internal sub-divisions are still those of the great Benedictine church of the pre-Valhalla era. It is interesting to find, at a time when Elizabethan coronation will soon be a topical theme, that the coronation of Elizabeth I, in January, 1559, with the full pre-Reformation rites only slightly altered, was held while the briefly restored monks and their abbot were still in possession. Other good points are a reference to the 13th-century detached bell tower that once stood, like those at Salisbury and Worcester, to the North of the church, and a valuable list of the important architects, e.g., Wren, two Wyatts, Blore, Scott, Pearson, and Lethaby, who have at various times been Abbey surveyors

BRYAN LITTLE.

Building Licences

BUILDERS, when they undertake D building work, ought to see the licence before they start the work. It is no good their relying on the word of the owner that he has got a licence, because if it should turn out that he has got none the work will be illegal and they will be unable to recover payment for it. can charge him with fraud, but that is a very serious charge to make and very likely to fail."

This short, but quite adequate, sum-mary of a builder's obligation prior to embarking on work which requires the grant of a licence, was made by Lord Justice Denning when giving judgment in the Court of Appeal in the recent case of A. Smith & Son (Bognor Regis), Ltd. v. Walker, the facts of which were that by an agreement made in April, 1948, the plaintiffs, a firm of building contractors agreed to carry out certain demolition and building works on the defendant's house. Before a building licence, as required by regulation 56A (2) of the Defence General) Regulations, 1939, had been obtained, the plaintiffs pulled down a wall of the house and rebuilt it at a cost of approximately £1,700. They then got licences for altering the rest of the house at a cost not to exceed £3,200 and before the licences were issued the defendant paid two sums of £500 on account. The plaintiff sought to recover payment not only of the £3,200 for the licensed work but also of the £1,700 for the unlicensed ork. With regard to the latter they endeavoured to show that it was in respect of emergency work which did not need a licence, but they failed on that point. They next sought to say that before the work was commenced the defendant had assured them that he had got a licence, whereas in fact he hadn't, and that therefore he had been guilty of fraud. They failed on that point also, the position being that the defendant had taken steps towards obtaining a licence, and, as the plans had been passed by the local council, had assumed that a licence would be forthcoming (as in fact it was) in respect of the work other than the demoli-tion of the wall. Having thus failed on the first two points the plaintiffs next sought to appropriate to the unlicensed work (i.e., the £1,700) the two payments on account of £500 which the defendant had paid them before the licences were issued. This was really the crux of the whole case for it raised the important question as to how far, if at all, a builder can appropriate payments to unlicensed work. Lord Justice Denning dealt with the matter as follows:

"Take, first, a case where all the work done was unlicensed and part payments have been made. In such a case the builder cannot successfully claim the balance due to him and the owner cannot recover any payments that he has made. Both were parties to an illegal transaction and the law will not give its help to either of them. Take, now, a case where one part of the work is unlicensed and the other part is licensed. In such a case I think it plain that any payments made by the owner generally on account of the work must be allocated to the lawful part It is not permissible for the builder to appropriate them to the unlawful part, but, if the owner himself specifically appropriates a particular payment to the unlawful part, then it remains where it is He cannot turn round afterwards and appropriate it to the lawful part. Just as the builder cannot recover the balance due to him for the unlawful part, so also the owner cannot recover back any payments he has made specifically on account of it. He cannot do it directly by action, nor can he do it indirectly by altering his appropriation from the unlawful to the

lawful part."

The Court then held that on the facts of the present case the two sums of £500 had been paid generally on account and had not been appropriated by the defendant to any particular work and they must therefore be allocated to his credit in respect of the amount lawfully due from

We are indebted to the All England Law Reports for the substance of this

Timber Review

THE pattern of the timber trade for this year is now taking shape. Soft-wood prices are falling, and some effect of the drop in the prices paid in the new softwood contracts in the Baltic, and the considerable fall in freight rates, can be seen in the prices being asked by timber merchants in most areas. Those who stocked their yards at the peak prices paid

last year are selling at a loss in some

Although it is difficult to estimate the extent to which softwood prices will fall this year, both importers and merchants are now convinced that an appreciable reduction is assured. At the moment the shippers have shown no signs of weakness, except in the lower qualities, but once a market has been established it will be possible to judge the fall in values on the home market. These prices will be greatly helped by reductions in freight of as much as £10 a standard from Sweden

In spite of strong pressure from the trade for the release of softwood from consumer licensing because of the small volume of business being done and the large stocks available to meet any demands, there is no sign that the Government will relent. The Timber Controller has expressed the opinion that there is no hope of a change in the keensing of soft-

wood this year.

There is some hope that the Parliamay find in favour of a wider use of wood. It is estimated that favourable findings to the timber industry, if accepted by the Government, could lead to an increase in consumption by as much as 250,000

Hardwood importers have now been told they may apply for import licences to bring in hardwoods from those countries previously covered by open general licences. The Colonies are excluded, for hardwoods may be freely imported from them. This will lead to a revival in hardwood business, though stocks are quite adequate, and there is unlikely to be any rush of business unless traces asked by the shippers show a decrease on the peak values attained last year. There is a slight weakening in hardwood prices.

The removal of all plywood from con-sumer licensing has not led to the rush of trade which many merchants expected. High prices are blamed. This freedom does, however, assist the architect and does, however, assist the architecture, builder for a wider scope in design where price limitations are not too strict. Wartime developments in the manufacture of plywood, which have been continued in the post-war period, have led to the production of a high-grade material, both for

Timber Control offices throughout the country are now being closed as the main function of issuing licences is dealt with by individual ministries, and bulk buying has been abandoned in softwood. The work of National Softwood Brokers, Ltd., will also draw to a close as the Canadian contracts now being handled on behalf of Timber Control are fulfilled. This contract should have been completed by July, but it will not be finished until

The Softwood Decontrol Committee have asked the Government to state their intentions for softwood trading in 1953 by the middle of August. This is vitally necessary if private importers are to make the most of world markets, for they begin placing contracts for shipment next year in the autumn of this year. Canadian mills have to be given good notice of the intentions of this market if the mills are to saw to our specifications. The informa-tion will be of great value to the building industry, for it will provide the basis for an estimate of the probable trend of soft-wood in 1953.

Tools

H AVING lately received a copy of B.S.1857 for Pipe Cutters, it caused me to wonder to wnat extent there were British Standards for tools and equipment applicable to the building industry and also to the architects office.

To start with the latter, I find there are quite a number of British Standards affecting equipment and supplies for drawing offices although the two most used items which need constant replacement, namely, pencils and rubbers, are unfortunately not as yet covered. In regard to pencils the differences between the descriptions of hardness adopted by the makers are extremely annoying to all draughtsmen and, to my knowledge, a source of constant observations in most drawing offices since one has to re-member that an "F" from one firm is equivalent to an "H.B." from another; a British Standard covering this matter would be very welcome to most drawing offices and it might be extended to cover pencils for uses other than by draughtsmen. Coupled with black pencils there might usefully be a standard for the quality of coloured pencils and a standard range of colours, as these are being so widely used as means of colouring drawings.

I have found an excellent standard for drawing pins, B.S.1677, but it has one serious omission from the point of view of the purchaser namely, that the standard does not require the pins to be packaged in boxes bearing an indication that the contents comply with the British Standard, so how is one to know them in the shop?

There is also a standard for boxwood scales, which unfortunately does not include the only type of scale I have ever found to be useful, namely, one which is fully divided; nor does the standard include scales in ivory or substitutes having similar appearance which so many draughtsmen prefer. Again, I have not been able to find a scale with an indication on it that it complies with this British Standard.

Drawing boards and T squares are covered by B.S. 1265/8; it is interesting to note the recommendation that double-elephant boards should 40in x 32in in order to accommodate comfortably drawings made on 40in or 30in wide tracing paper which is something I have always wanted. The sooner the manufacturers discontinue selling boards 40in x 29in in favour of 40in x 32in the better as these are extremely inconvenient in these days when almost all drawings are made on rolls of paper. I am sorry that the standard for T squares does not make any provision for those with celluloid edges as I find these extremely valuable especially when making tracings.

A British Standard for the quality of waterproof drawing ink is also highly desirable. The first step has been taken already as there are agreed standard colours.

I feel that a great deal of production economy could probably be achieved with consequent reduced prices to us, the users, if the ordinary run of drawing instruments could also be covered by standards, that is to say instruments such as compasses, dividers ruling pins of the types used by the bulk of draughtsmen and students. It would be particularly useful if the parts most liable to be lost or to wear out could be interchangeable. I notice that there is already a glossary of terms, B.S. 1709, describing drawing instruments which I assume is the first stage in the preparation of a B.S. for instruments but the next step would be much more helpful.

wonder sometimes if 1 wonder sometimes if we, as architects, take enough trouble to equip ourselves and our drawing offices as well as we should for real efficiency. I have often been rather surprised when visiting the drawing offices of engineers and manufacturers to see such elaborate equipment and in reply to my usual question as to whether it is necessary and worth the cost I am always assured that it pays as it aids speed and accuracy. Ought we not to take a lesson from drawing offices in other spheres as the rapid production of efficient drawings is of such vital importance to our work, and thus bring our drawing equipment up to date in order that we may have the best of drawings produced?

In regard to hand tools for building trade operatives, some years ago B.S. 876 for hand hammers was issued, which includes many types of hammer used both in the building industry and in the engineering field; there seems to be one serious omission as I cannot find any reference to a claw hammer. Now there is a B.S. for Pipe Cutters

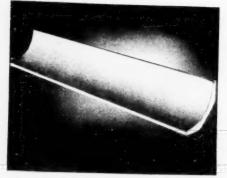
and I gather there are more to come. To-day, tools are very costly and as a safeguard to the purchaser that the material from which they are made and that the workmanship of their manufacture is adequate, I am sure a full series of B.S. would be very useful. As have said before, however, if a standard is to be of any real value to a purchaser of goods complying with the standard it is essential that the goods are marked in some way to indicate their conformity with the requirements of the standard; for hand tools this is especially important as so many are purchased singly by their users, at least in the building field, and not by the employers who might be able to place large orders and be in a position to satisfy themselves that the goods delivered are up to the quality required. From a number of enquiries I have made such a mark as suggested on tools, which could be easily recognized by the buyers, would obviously be welcome. It is apparent, however, from the same enquiries that

there are many likes and dislikes in regard to tool shapes and sizes and these tend to vary in particular from district to district but, nevertheless, it seems quite certain that prospective purchasers and users of tools would like to know that the materials used are of the right type and are properly assembled; examples were given to me of the use of very poor and quite unsuitable quality materials for saws, chisels and hammers and it was made very clear that it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the buyer to know by appearance what the value of the tool might be especially in regard to their cutting qualities until he has started to use them on the job,

I am told that B.S.I. will shortly be issuing a standard for wood-working chisels and gouges and also for woodworker's bit-braces, but I have not yet heard any mention of a B.S. for handsaws which I personally feel is a subject of very great importance, since the quality of metal used could be so variable. In regard to shapes and sizes of tools it seems probable that if a carefully selected range for each article was prepared, mass-production should be able to see that there is a sufficient price advantage to encourage buyers to direct the bulk of their demands to such a standard range. It is probable that the wider the selection available the more people wish to have different types, but if a comparatively small but comprehensive range is offered, most users will select from it, especially if the alternatives appear to be much more

I should like to see a B.S. for screwdrivers, both of the plain and ratchet types. It should include, where appropriate, tests and guarantees of the insulation, as I often wonder whether the high values given would be safe if the articles were put to a suitable overload test. Standards for pliers and wire cutters would be useful, as the quality of metal in these is of the utmost importance, like the hand-saws, as they must provide a long, useful life. For many tools, it seems to me, there are far too many qualities or grades; I should have thought two, or three at the most, are necessary-one, the very best, for craftsmen using that type of tool constantly, a second for workmen using them less frequently and a third for the house-holder who uses them occasionally and does not take great care of them; the most important grade, however, is the best quality which will give real value and long life to the buyer. When examining tools offered in shops, it has on occasions occurred to me to wonder whether some of the attractiveness of their appearance is not an effort to mask poor quality materials-hence my wish to see B.S.I. give priority to safeguarding the craftsmen in our industry

DUTCH UNCLE



STRUCTURE FACINGS A 9 1

A moulded cove which has a Gyptum plaster core is illustrated here. The outside lining is ofstrong paper, Moulded cove, being completely dry, is ready for mimediate painting or distempering after fixing. It can be secured by plaster wads or nais or bedded in Plaster of Paris. The cove weighs I be per it for the cover of the cove



The names and addresses of manufacturers of any item illustrated in MOSAICS, together with more detailed information relating to their products-including price and availability—will be forwarded to readers on request.

Letters should quote the serial number and be addressed to:

The Editor, The Architect and Building News, Dorset House, Stamford Street, S.E.I. Please mark the envelope MOSAICS.



SERVICES LIGHTING BI 41

A wall fitting designed for one 60-watt lamp. This fitting is one of a recent range designed and marketed by a well-known firm. The back platform and arm is of facquered brass while the shade illustrated here is of Chrystiline.

salline.

The projection of the fitting from the wall face is 7 inches. The diameter is 6 inches and the diameter of the back plate is 5 inches.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

The Ministry of Materials announces that from May 22, 1952, the price of imported good soft pig lead is decreased from E131 to £129 per ton delivered consumers' works.

The Ministry of Materials also announces that from May 22, 1952, the price of good ordinary brand zine is decreased from £190 to £166 per ton delivered consumers' works. Premiums for higher grades remain unchanged

The Ministry of Supply will make a separate announcement about the controlled price of scrap.

Mr. Thomas W. Morris, of Murrum-beena, Senior Vice President of the Vic-toria (Australia) Master Builders' Association, who is own a visit to Great Britain, attended a meeting of the Council of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers in London on May 20. During the meeting Mr. Morris heard the Council approve the affiliation of the Victoria Master Builders' Associa-tion to the National Federation.

The Registered Offices of Sharp Bros. & Knight, Ltd. have been moved from Burton-on-Trent to Lion House, Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey.

Mr. Charles Ramsden, Overseas Director of the F.B.I., has retired after thirty-three years' service with the Federation.
Mr. Ramsden is succeeded by Mr. Peter Tennant who, in March last, resigned from the Foreign Service and ioined the F.B.I. as Deputy Overseas Director.

The Aeronautical & Panel Plywood Co.. Ltd. announce that they have recently engaged in a major reorganization, and manufacture has now been transferred to their works at Crayford, which have been specially developed and equipped for the purpose. The scope and range of their plywood products will also be enlarged. The name of this Company has now been changed to William Mallinson and Sons (Manufacturing), Limited, and they will continue as the manufacturing unit of their The Aeronautical & Panel Plywood Co., (Manufacturing), Esmited, and iney will continue as the manufacturing unit of their parent company William Mallinson and Sons, Limited, 130/150, Hackney Road, London, E.2, through whom it is proposed that sales will in future be made.



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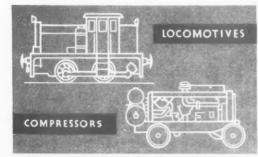
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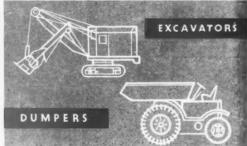
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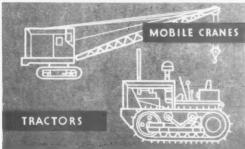
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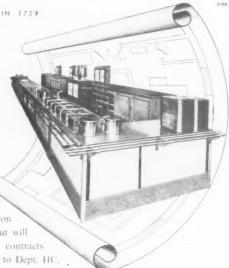
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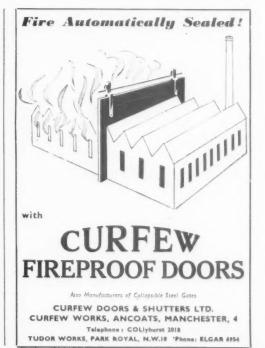
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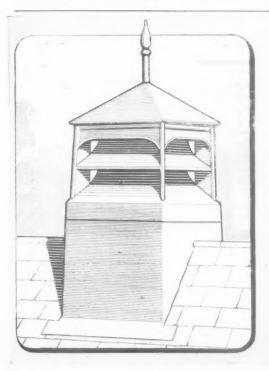


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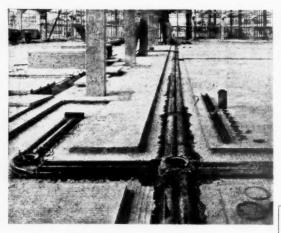
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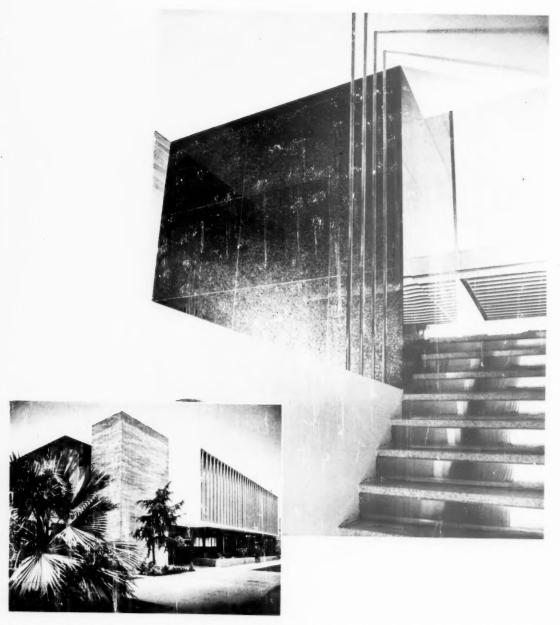


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GREAT YARMOUTH B.C. (a) 100 houses, Magdalen College Estate, Gorles-ton. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall.

HARTLEY WINTNEY R.C. (a) Public convenience at King Street, Odiham. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (a) Public (e) June 16.

HESTON AND ISLEWORTH B.C. (a) 16 flats, Ivy Road, Hounslow. (b) O. P. F. Hilton, 88, Lampton Road, Hounslow. (c) 3gns. (e) June 25.

HUDDERSFIELD B.C. (a) Sectional timber hutted building (whole trades) for the Motor Engineering Department of the Technical College, East Parade. (b) Education Architect, Education Offices, Ramsden Street. (e) June 10.

ILFRACOMBE U.C. (a) New wing and alterations at South Lodge (for Old People's Welfare Committee). (b) Messrs. Oliver and Dyer, Queen Anne's Chambers, The Strand, Barnstaple. (c) Ign. (d) Lyne. 6

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading. (c) deposit, (d) last date for application. (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked a care given in the advertisement section.

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LONDON—CAMBERWELL B.C (a) 21 houses, 3 flats and 6 shops, Site No. 51. (b) Messrs John Grey and Partner, 17, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2. (c) 2gns. (e) June 25.

LONDON—FINCHLEY B.C. (a) Additional washing and cloakroom facilities at Martin School, High Road, N.2. (b) Borough Engineer, 294-6, Regents Patk Road, N.3. (c) £2. (e) June 9.

LONDON—FRIERN BARNET U.C.
(a) 24 flats, Denham Road, N 20. (b)
Council's Clerk Town Hall, N.11. (c)
2gns. (d) June 6.

LONDON — MERTON AND MOR-DEN U.C. (a) 18 lock-up garages adjoining 118, West Barnes Lane, S.W. 20. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Morden Hall, S.W.19. (e) June 10.

LUTON B.C. (a) Cemetery chapel, Hitchin Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) June 9.

MANCHESTER C.C. (a) Adaptations to form additional lavatory accommodation at Green End Junior Boys' School, Burnage. (b) City Architect, Town Hall. (c) Ign. (e) June 12.

MARKET HARBOROUGH U.C. (a) 24 dwellings, Southern Estate. (b) Lyndon Rowen, 39, High Street. (c) £2. (e) fune 9.

N. IRELAND—BELFAST C.C. (a) Substation building at Great Patrick Street (reinforced concrete and brick) also foundation piling. (b) Messrs. Merz and M'Lellan, Carliol House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1. (c) 5gns. (e) June 6.

N. IRELAND—CLOGHER R.C. (a) 36 houses at Ballygawley, 34 at Fivemiletown, 19 at Aughnacloy and 22 at Mullaghtinney, with incidental road and drainage work. (b) Messrs. M.Carthy and Lilburn. Scottish Provident Buildings, Donegall Square West, Belfast. (c) Sgns. (e) June 13.

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING TRUST. (a) 22 flats, 9 shops and 2 offices with ancillary works at Bridewell Drive, Sunnylands, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. (b) Trust Offices, 12, Hope Street, Belfast. (c) £3. (e) June 11.

N. IRELAND—OMAGH R.C. (a) 9 houses, roads, sewers, etc., at Mountjoy East. (b) Messrs, Ostick and Williams, 12-14, Corporation Street, Belfast. (c) -2gns. (e) June 6.

NORTH COTSWOLD R.C. (a) 17 houses at Bourton-on-the-Water, 21 at Broadwell, 8 at Condicote, 4 at Cutsdean, 2 at Leomb (particulars, Mr. Thomas Rayson, 29, Beaumont Street, Oxford), and 4 houses at Aston Magna, 4 at Mickleton (particulars Messrs, Pemberton and Baterman, 21, Vine Street, Evesham, Worcs). (c) 2gns.

PLYMOUTH C.C. (a) (1) 36 flats at West Hoe Road, Millbray, (2) 24 flats (Block L) at Ceeil Street, Stonehouse, (3) 24 flats (Block D) at King Street, Stonehouse, (4) 24 flats (Block P) at King Street, Stonehouse, and (5) 24 flats (Block N) at Stoke Road, Stonehouse, (b) City



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PORTSMOUTH C.C. (a) Primary school at Highbury, Cosham. (b) City Architect, Municipal Offices, 1, Western Parade, Southsea. (c) 3gns. (d) June 4.

REDCAR B.C. (a) 2 blocks of 4 shops and maisonettes, Dales Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 5gns. (e) June 25.

RIPPONDEN U.C. (a) 23 houses at Northfield, Barkisland. (b) Messrs. Clement Williams and Sons, Permanent Chambers, Commercial Street, Halifax. (e) June 12.

ST. ASAPH AND BANGOR JOINT CLERICAL E.C. (a) Alterations and additions at the Church Hostel, Princes Road, Bangor. (b) Messrs. North and Padmore, Diocesan Offices, Bangor. (d) June 2.

SCOTLAND — LINLITHGOW B.C.
(a) 34, three apartment houses, Mains
Maltings sire (separate trades). (b) Town
Clerk, Linlithgow. (c) June 6.

SCOTLAND—STORNOWAY (ISLE-OF LEWIS) (a) Out-patients' department, connecting corridor and entrance at Lewis Hospital (for Northern Regional Hospital Board), separate trades. (b) Regional Board Architect, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. (c) June 16.

SOUTHWICK U.C. (a) 48 houses, Windmill site. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 3gns. (e) June 16. SURBITON B.C. (a) Repair of war

SURBITON B.C. (a) Repair of war damage and dilapidations to Fishponds House and conversion into 2 flats. (b) Borough Engineer, Council Offices, Ewell Road. (e) June 7.

TORPOINT U.C. (a) 4 houses and 16 flats, Park Road site. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, York Road. (c) 2gns. (d) June 18.

WAKEFIELD C.C. (a) (1) 20 flats at Flanshaw Estate, (2) 32 flats at Gill Sike Road, Lupset, and (3) 48 flats at Windmill Road, Eastmoor. (b) Room 32, Town Hall. (c) June 9.

WIGAN B.C. (a) Additional classrooms and Invatory accommodation at Woodfield Primary School, Wigan Lane. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings, Library Street. (c) £2. (e) June 14.

PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

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Twickenham. (3) Geo. Moss (London),
Ltd., Ealing, W. (4) £46,564. (1) Rebuilding. (2) Bridge Road School, Willesden. (3) Buckingham and Sons, Ltd.,
Vivian Avenue, London, N.W.4. (4)
£44,252. (1) Primary school. (2) Southgate Green. (3) A. Scott and Sons (London), Ltd., Ridge Avenue, London, N.Z1.
(4) £40,977. (1) Primary school. (2)
Cromwell Road, Twickenham. (3) J.
Lawson and Co., Ltd., Park Road North,
W.3. (4) £40,475. (1) Reinstatement.
(2) Chiswick Grammar School. (3) J.
Dorey and Co., Ltd., Brentford. (4)
£17,948.

STOCKPORT B.C. (1) Secondary school. (2) Offerton. (3) A. McLellan, Ltd., Bideford Road, Woodbank, Stockport. (4) £152,215.

BROMLEY B.C. (1) 78 houses. (2) Hayes Place Estate. (3) W. E. and S. Rumph (Builders), Ltd., The Downs, Wimbledon, S.W. (1) £130,495.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE E.C. (1) Grammar school. (2) Carlton. (3) A. G. Clower, Ltd., Daybrook Square, Nottingham. (4) £165,993.

MIDDLETON B.C. (1) 160 houses. (2) Brookside. (3) W. F. Mitchell, Ltd., Boarshaw, Middleton, Lancs.

ECCLES B.C. (1) 102 hcuses. (2) Ellesmere Park Estate. (3) Roy and Partners. Ltd., 25, Cross Street, Manchester, 2. (4) £137,352.

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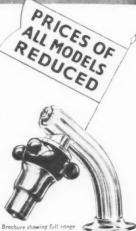
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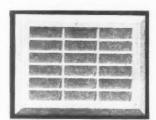
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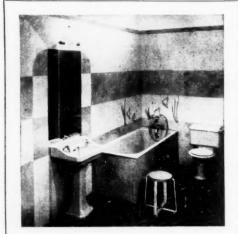
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PRESS NOTICE

For the issue of "The Architect and Building News" dated June 5th, classified advertisements must reach us by IST POST, FRIDAY, May 30th.

APPOINTMENTS

The engagement of persons answering these ad-tritisements must be made through the local effice the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc. the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman for 18-51 inclusive, unless he or she or the em-loyer is excepted from the previsions of The Unification of Vacantics Order 1852.

L ONDON County Council invites applications that the superannuable post of architect in charge of the Historic Records Section of the Architect's Dept. Grade I. £1.002-£1.143). Skill storation to be be shoration of buildings and objects according to period and style required; duties include drafting material for publication. Application forms, to be returned by 30th June. from Architect (quote EK HR %). County Hall, SE 1. (549). [6415]

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[6409]

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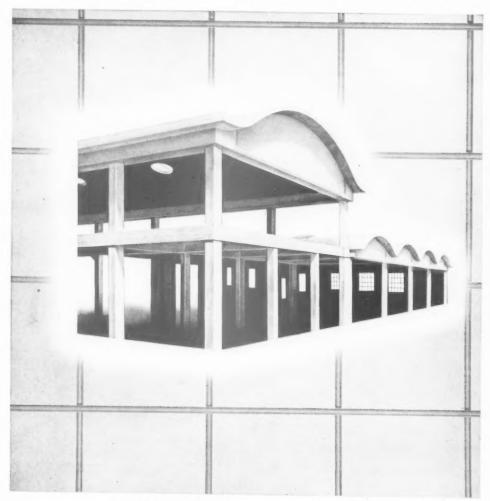
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